



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

February 8, 2008

News from the Chief

I want to thank everyone for using the new Crooks with Guns law and Drug Free Zones statute whenever possible.

In the five weeks since the Crooks with Guns law became effective, our officers have used it to charge 22 persons. Several of them have already been bound over to the grand jury.

The Crooks with Guns law was passed after a tremendous amount of work by the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition (police chiefs, sheriffs, and district attorneys general) during the 2007 legislative session. This law specifically seeks to provide for minimum mandatory sentencing (85% of sentence to be served) for those convicted.

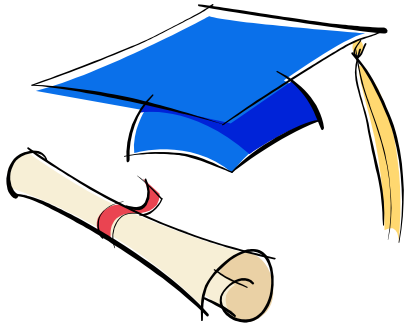
The Drug Free Zone statute comes into play for felony drug crimes committed within 1,000 feet of

- a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school
- a public or private preschool or child care agency
- a public library, recreation center or park

I have strong confidence that your careful consideration and professional use of these laws will assist in driving crime down even further in the Nashville community. If you have any questions concerning these very valuable law enforcement tools, please ask your supervisors, Case Preparation, or Academy staff.

Thank you all for your continuing excellence!

Happenings



**Session 56 Graduation Ceremonies
Thursday, March 6
6 p.m. at Madison Church of Christ
106 N. Gallatin Pike**

**News from Background & Recruitment
Michele Donegan**

Session 57 will begin February 19. After the review of 223 potential candidates, 91 conditional offers of employment were extended. Of those 91 conditional offers, we deferred nine to the June class, and hired a total of 56 Police Officer Trainees.

Officer Angie Page will be leaving the MNPD this month to pursue a career with the AFT. Angie has been a true asset to the Recruitment Division. Come by the North Precinct Community Room on February 14, from 1-3 p.m., to bid her farewell.

With spring upon us, we are always looking for recruitment opportunities at community events, sporting events, etc. If you are aware of an event we can participate in, please send me an e-mail with the information. Thanks for all you do!

With over 100 competitors at the 1st Annual Camp Bucca Groundhogs Day Shootout at Fielder Range, MNPD Sergeant Grant Carroll was the Overall Pistol Champion and 40 - 49 age group Rifle Champion. Grant is serving at Camp Bucca in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Major and the Executive Officer of his unit. Grant is Ranger qualified and also served during Operation Desert Storm.



Session 56 conducting practicum training.



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The Precinct News

Hermitage

A routine traffic stop led to the seizure of drugs and a stolen handgun within a drug-free school zone.

Officer Kevin Wallace attempted to pull over Francisco Hernandez because he was not wearing a seatbelt. Hernandez sped off, but was taken into custody after a short pursuit.

Hernandez had a stolen handgun hidden in his waistband. He was also in possession of 5.1 grams of cocaine, 61.8 grams of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Hernandez also violated the Crooks with Guns law. If convicted, he will not be eligible for parole until at least 85% of the minimum mandatory sentence has been served.

Officers Thomas Spence and Joshua Hill stopped a vehicle for a window tint violation. The driver, who had a lengthy arrest history and was on probation for a felony cocaine conviction, appeared to be very nervous. A K-9 Unit responded and alerted to the presence of narcotics in the car. Seized in a subsequent search were 139 grams of marijuana packaged for re-sale. The arrest was within 1000 feet of J.C. Napier Elementary School, a drug-free school zone.

Two men with lengthy arrest histories are behind bars on drug and gun charges as the result of proactive policing by Hermitage Precinct Officer Jacob Pilarski.

Emmett Harvell, 34, of Ridgeside Drive, and Bardell Joseph, 34, of Torbay Drive, are charged with marijuana for resale and violating the Crooks with Guns law, which provides mandatory consecutive prison sentences.

Officer Pilarski intervened in a fight at University Court and Carroll Street. Joseph fled the scene in a Lincoln Navigator driven by Harvell. Officer Pilarski broadcast the SUV's description.

Officer Michael Thomas spotted the Navigator a short time later entering I-40. He activated his emergency equipment. Before Harvell stopped his Navigator, baggies containing marijuana and a loaded handgun were thrown from the SUV. Both men were taken into custody without incident.

South

Teamwork by Patrol and Flex officers led to the arrest of murder suspect Robert Tyler Williams.

Officer Mike Straube stopped the driver of a 2002 Buick LeSabre for reckless driving in the 200 block of Willard Drive at 8:45 p.m. The driver and two passengers fled on foot. Williams, 21, of Tampa Drive, stayed in the car.

A .22 caliber revolver, a semi-automatic pistol, and a shotgun, were recovered from the LeSabre.

Williams, a convicted felon, is charged with 1st degree murder in the December 15 shooting of Dominique Roper, 18, during a party inside a Cane Ridge Road Apartment. Witnesses reported Williams and Roper argued before shots were fired.

The other three suspects were captured within an hour of the stop.

East

Alert police work by Sergeant Jeff Bauer led to the arrest of two robbery suspects. Sergeant Bauer spotted a car that matched the description of a vehicle involved in two separate robberies. Stolen items were recovered from the car. Both men were taken into custody and charged with aggravated robbery.

Outstanding police work by East Precinct Officers Doyle Price and William Bolan, along with determination of two women to hold their nephews accountable for their actions, led to the arrest of three teenagers for robbing a Pizza Hut deliveryman.

The suspects, ages 14, 15, and 16, are charged with aggravated robbery.

The 18-year-old deliveryman arrived on McFerrin Avenue with a pizza that had been ordered. Once there, the victim was attacked and robbed of cash and the pizza. He called police from his cell phone.

Officers Price and Bolan quickly responded to the area and spotted one of the teens who matched a suspect description given by the victim. He admitted his involvement.

Later that night, the aunts of the other two suspects brought their nephews to the East Precinct after learning that they, too, were involved in the robbery.

North

A total of five persons are now behind bars, charged in the January 21 murder of Billy Jack Shane Tuders who was shot during an apparent robbery attempt outside a car wash on Clarksville Pike. Robert Nelson Buford, his brother, Kevin Lamont Buford, Kevin Buford's two teenage sons, and a third teenager, are all charged in Tuders' homicide.

Officer Craig Reese responded to a theft call on Liberia Street where a homeowner reported two men were attempting to steal his HVAC unit. Officer Reese saw a suspect tan-colored GMC Jimmy leaving the area. After a brief pursuit, the driver bailed from the SUV and fled on foot. The driver, Duane Summers, 38, was captured a short time later. Summers has been arrested over 30 times. His arrest history reflects charges for robbery, aggravated assault, vehicle theft, and burglary. His passenger, Eula Beasley, 38, has been arrested over 40 times on charges including aggravated robbery, assault, and burglary.

West

The Air Marine Operations Center (AMOC) in Riverside, California, notified agents at the Nashville Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) that a Cessna aircraft with suspicious air patterns was approaching Tennessee. In the early morning hours of Wednesday, January 30, the aircraft landed at the Nashville airport. The Nashville Airport Police and West Precinct Crime Suppression Unit officers inspected the plane using a trained drug dog. The drug dog alerted to the presence of narcotics in the plane. Officers then obtained search warrants for three large, heavy suitcases located in the plane. They found 154 pounds of cocaine in the suitcases. This is the second largest seizure of cocaine in Nashville history.

A noisy muffler led to the seizure of two pounds of marijuana from a pickup truck entering I-65 North at Wedgewood Avenue.

Officer Edward Escamilla alertly stopped the 1986 Chevrolet S-10 at 4 p.m. because of the loud noise coming from it. As Escamilla approached the vehicle to speak to the driver, he immediately detected the smell of marijuana.

The driver acknowledged that he was carrying a “joint.” A subsequent search of the pickup truck revealed about two pounds of marijuana inside a shoebox behind the seats.

Central

Flex officers visited the homeless camp under the interstate behind the old General Hospital location and arrested two men on outstanding warrants. Officers also found a lawnmower, several gas weed eaters, engine parts, and a burn barrel with remnants of wire in it, possibly used to burn copper wire.

Officers also proactively patrolled Jefferson Street near 11th Avenue North after receiving complaints about illegal activity in the area from community leaders, business owners, and residents.

A man was charged with his second DUI and unlawful weapon possession after he refused to pull over for Officer Jonathan Mays. Cody Buck, 28, crashed his Toyota 4Runner in the 400 block of Houston Street after a brief pursuit. A handgun was recovered from the driver’s side floor board. Buck was driving on a revoked license.

Officers Donald “Ryan” Scott and Warren Thomas responded to the Jefferson Street Bridge where a man was standing on the handrail, threatening to end his own life. Officer Thomas quickly built a rapport with the man who told the officer he was tired and did not want to live any more. As Officer Scott quietly moved in behind the man, Officer Thomas continued to encourage him to return to the sidewalk. Just as the man began to lean out over the water, Officer Scott managed to grab the man by his belt. Officer Thomas rushed in to assist Officer Scott and the man was pulled to safety.

Gang Unit

U.S. Attorney Ed Yarbrough Friday honored the leadership of the Metropolitan Police Department's Gang Unit with an Award for Excellence in recognition of the Unit's enormous impact on Nashville's safety.

The citation recognizing Lt. Mitch Fuhrer, Sgt. Gary Kemper, and Sgt. Jonathan Rogers noted, in part:

"The Gang Unit played a vital and indispensable role in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of numerous members of a notorious violent nationwide gang known as "La Mara Salvatrucha" or MS-13. Its original members were refugees from the civil war in El Salvador in the 1980s; many were former soldiers and guerillas well-trained in weapons and warfare tactics. To achieve their objectives, this organization is widely known to engage in violent crimes, including multiple murders. Thanks largely to the efforts to the Gang Unit, this investigation and federal prosecution may have eradicated the presence of an MS-13 cell in the Middle Tennessee district.

Previously, the Gang Unit's investigative efforts and support led to the investigation, arrest, prosecution, incarceration and, in some cases, the dismantling of other well-established gang cells such as Los Angeles-based Crips and Bloods, the Chicago-based Gangster Disciples, organized criminal Asian gangs, and the Chicago-based Vice Lords.

The Gang Unit has proven to be a vigilant and indispensable law enforcement asset in protecting our communities from the effects of these criminal organizations and their violent activities."

Chief Ronal Serpas, who attended the award ceremony, said, "Our Gang Unit does very important work virtually every day of the week in neighborhoods throughout Nashville. They arrest very dangerous criminals, recover a number of crime guns, and develop significant intelligence information that is shared among other department components. I am very proud of the dedication and commitment of Lieutenant Fuhrer, Sergeants Kemper and Rogers, and every member of the Gang Unit."

From the District Attorney's Office

Officers:

If you are investigating a juvenile for a violent crime such as murder or aggravated robbery and have any questions at all, please call Kathy Morante at the District Attorney's Office. She is now handling these cases and would be happy to discuss any questions about juvenile law or procedure with you. Her numbers are 862-8096 (o) and 294-7452 (c).

Remember that once juveniles are taken to the Juvenile Justice Center, officers may not interview them further. Also, the recent trend of obtaining juvenile arrest warrants from the night commissioner is problematic for a number of reasons. Please speak with General Morante before taking this course of action. Thank you.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Human Resources Manager Sue Bibb

We have had numerous inquiries from employees concerning the discontinuance of debit cards for our Flexible Spending Accounts.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions please contact Metro HR representative Justin Stack at 862-6640 ext.72248.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY FUNDS LEFT IN YOUR FSA ACCOUNT FROM 2007 MUST BE USED BY MARCH 15 2008 OR THEY WILL BE LOST.

We have another very important update relating to all employees who had the FSA debit card in 2007. You may have been hearing from some of your employees who state that their debit card has been de-activated. This is true. They were de-activated at the end of the plan year on 12/31/07. Logistical challenges and the likelihood of negative tax implications led to the decision not to extend the card past the end of the plan year. Those same issues resulted in the decision to cancel the debit card program for 2008. Unfortunately, our last correspondence to FSA participants mailed in the middle of December erroneously stated that the cards would be de-activated on March 31st, 2008, instead of the correct date of 12/31/07.

So, what does this mean? First, this will only affect those who still have FSA dollars from 2007 and want to use their FSA "EZ Reimburse" debit card. Those employees no longer have that option. But those employees can still use their 2007 dollars for claims incurred through MARCH 15th, 2008 (the end of the IRS grace period). Instead of using the debit card, they will have to file a claim and be reimbursed via check or direct deposit by FBMC. So, for example, if John Q. Metro still has \$800 in his Flexible Spending Account from 2007 and goes to the dentist tomorrow, he can apply those 2007 funds. However, he'll have to pay for the service, file a claim, and be reimbursed by FBMC. If he goes to the dentist on March 16th, 2008, and tries to file a claim, he will NOT be able to use 2007 funds because the IRS grace period will have expired.

How can you help? We're glad you asked. The first thing is to make sure any of your employees who had an FSA in 2007 and have not used all of their funds are aware that they must use those funds by March 15th. Otherwise, those funds will be lost. The second thing is to make sure that your employees who have the debit card know that it is no longer valid. We've already been hearing from employees who have had a rude awakening at the pharmacy/doctor's office/dentist/etc.

We are trying to spread the word through as many channels as we can, but we also know that our HR Coordinators are often the best source of information for those employees we can't reach. Any effort you can give is always appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Justin Stack at 862-6640 ext. 72248. As always, thanks for your help.

Congratulations:

Detective Gerry Hyder, Gangs Unit, and his wife, Amanda, are the proud parents of Wyatt Luke born January 28.

Kathy Kirkham, Fiscal Affairs, is the proud grandparent of Hayden Andrew Kirkham born January 24.



Condolences:

Mary Sharer, mother of Detective Billy Sharer, Auto Theft, passed away January 25.

Rosemarie Cravens, sister of Kathy Anderson, Fraud Unit, passed away January 26.

James Henry, father of Judy Johnson, retired Strategic Development, and father-in-law of Sergeant John Johnson, retired, passed away January 28.

Thomas McCaskill, father-in-law of Officer Mike Helton, South Precinct, passed away January 27.

John Robertson, uncle of Steve Holliday, Hermitage Precinct, passed away January 28.

Officer Phillip Hayes, retired in 2002 after 30 years of service, and brother of Officer J. Larry Hayes, retired, passed away January 30.

Clyde Dixon, father of Stephen Dixon, Security Guard, passed away January 26.

Margaret Sarah Love, loyal friend to many officers, passed away January 29.

Officer Clyde Joseph Mangrum, retired in 1989 after 27 years of service, passed away February 7.

FYI:

2008 Polar Bear Plunge

Middle Tennesseans are invited to join in “Freezin’ for a Reason” on Saturday, February 16, during the 9th Annual Polar Bear Plunge benefiting Tennessee Special Olympics at Nashville Shores on Percy Priest Lake.

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Law Enforcement Torch Run program, the event features a plunge by participants into Percy Priest Lake in anything but a wetsuit. Plungers will have collected a minimum of \$25 in donations for Special Olympics and will hit the water at 12 noon. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. Those under 18 must have written consent from a parent/guardian to participate. There will be special prizes for the plunger raising the most money, the plunger with the best costume and the participant who traveled the farthest.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served during registration, and lunch will be available after the plunge. Lunch is free to plungers. Spectators can join for a \$5 donation.

The Metropolitan Police Department has a long-standing commitment to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics, the nation’s largest provider of athletic events and sporting activities for mentally challenged children and young adults.

Nashville Shores is located at 4001 Bell Road off the I-40 Stewarts Ferry Pike exit. Businesses sponsoring this year’s plunge, in addition to Nashville Shores, are Coca Cola, the Gold Rush restaurant, and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Sergeant Anna-Maria Williams has a very special Polar Bear Plunge pledge. If she raises \$2,500 she will dive into the icy waters dressed as Xena, Warrior Princess! Here’s how you can help make that happen:

Cash donations or checks, made payable to Special Olympics, are being accepted at the East Precinct at 936 E. Trinity Lane. You can also donate online at [firstgiving.com](http://www.firstgiving.com), a secure Web site that accepts credit/debit card donations. Please visit

<http://www.firstgiving.com/annamariawilliams> and prepare to hear Sergeant Williams’ warrior yell!

For more information on this event, go to www.police.nashville.org and click on the polar bear icon.



I love Krispy Kreme Doughnuts!

MNPD Wellness Tip-off

Tip-off for the week

Eat Heart Smart: To cut the cholesterol you get from eggs, substitute two whites for every whole egg. Omelets can be made with whites, nonfat dry milk, and skim milk, and so can some soufflés, cakes, and muffins. Or you can substitute two whites plus one whole egg for two eggs.

Choose to Move: Exercise to help maintain a healthy blood pressure level.

People with high blood pressure are generally advised to do aerobic exercise (such as cycling or brisk walking) and strength training with light weights. If you have high blood pressure, check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program. Be careful if you lift heavy weights or do isometric exercise—such as pushing against a wall or pressing palms together to build strength. Keep the intensity light to moderate, and rest between the brief bouts.

Source: UC Berkeley Wellness Made Easy, 365 Tips for Better Health, 2005.

NFD/MNPD Wellness Initiative

Tara Beever, MS and Sarah Vaughn, RD

For more information, please call (615)-340-0466

“That’s a Fat, Jack!”

February is National Heart Health Month. What better way to start it off then to learn the facts about fat. Essential fatty acids are fatty acids that the body cannot produce, but play an important role in regulating blood pressure and in the synthesis and repair of vital cell parts. These essential fatty acids come from “good” fats in your diet. The “good” fats are unsaturated fats known as monounsaturated fatty acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. These fats are found in plant oils, nuts and seeds, and some types of fatty fish. The “bad” fats one should limit or avoid in the diet are saturated fat and trans fat. Saturated fats are found in high-fat meats and dairy products. Trans fatty acids are present in foods that contain “partially-hydrogenated” vegetable oils such as fried foods, stick margarine, and other processed foods. Eating too much saturated fat can lead to high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and increase the risk of developing heart disease. By watching the type of fats you eat as well as how much, you can keep your heart healthy and happy!

Learn more information on the different types of fat and heart health by checking out the American Heart Association website at:

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1200010>.

By: Sarah Vaughn, RD

High blood pressure is a known risk factor for heart disease

Symptoms of high blood pressure include headache, dizziness, blurred vision, nausea, nose bleeds and occasionally, heart palpitations. The good news is that a single session of cardiovascular activity (aerobic exercise) can help to lower blood pressure (both the top and bottom number) by 5-7 mm Hg. Reductions as small as 2 mm Hg can result in a reduced risk of stroke and coronary artery disease. Post exercise reductions in blood pressure can last for as long as 22 hours! So, the next time you head out for a walk, swim or run, remember that you are helping to lower and control your blood pressure!